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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,324	07/02/2002	Thomas V. Taylor	TAY-13	8280
23508	7590	06/08/2004	EXAMINER	
LUNDEEN & DICKINSON, LLP			SNOW, BRUCE EDWARD	
PO BOX 131144			ART UNIT	
HOUSTON, TX 77219-1144			PAPER NUMBER	
			3738	

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,324

Applicant(s)

TAYLOR ET AL.

Examiner

Bruce E Snow

Art Unit

3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-12, 15, 21-23, 25, 29-55 and 57-63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 13, 14, 18, 24, 27, 28 and 56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 17, 19, 20 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I drawn to an anti-reflux valve and Species election of annular body of figure 1 and the valve species of figure in Paper No. 02262004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that applicant has subsequently amended the claims to form new claims groupings in the form of subcombination\combinations. This is not found persuasive because of election by original presentation as follows:

Newly amended/submitted claims 29-55 and 57-63 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The new claims form new groupings in the form of subcombination\combinations and method of using relative to the elected group (anti-reflux valve). The originally presented claim (groupings of claims) provided **evidence** that patentability of the combination does not rely on the details of the specific subcombination and restriction is proper.

It is further noted that at least claim 38, combination of a tool and prosthesis, does not positively claim the prosthesis in the body of the claim.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 29-55 and 57-63 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Additionally, claims 10-12, 15, 21-23 drawn to a non-elected species using magnets are withdrawn.

Applicant's election of species with traverse of the insertion tool in Paper No. 04272004 is acknowledged. Applicant's traversal is on the grounds that: "Claims 1 -28 and 56 are generic because no tool limitation is specified in the noted claims. If a generic claim is allowed, all species claims which include the limitations of the generic claims should be allowed. See MPEP 806.0441)." Applicant's response is unclear in regards to stating claims 1-28 and 56 are generic. This response is also believed to provide evidence that patentability of the combination claims is distinct from the patentability of the subcombination claims. It is the Examiner's position that the insertion tool is patentably distinct from the extraction tool.

Additionally, claim 25 drawn to a non-elected species and an extraction tool is withdrawn.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Regarding claim 8, the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter positively claiming the patient.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 13-14, 18, 24, 27-28, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor (6,558,429).

Taylor teaches an anti-reflux valve prosthesis to be placed in an esophagus, the prosthesis comprising:

an annular body including element 13;

a valve 21 depending from the annular fixation body, the valve configured to allow orthograde passage therethrough and inhibiting retrograde passage of gastric contents; and

a plurality of retractable spikes 25, 71 spaced along a circumference of the annular body adjacent one end thereof. Note column 6, lines 59 et seq. teaching the spikes are optionally barbed but are preferably not barbed where removal of the prosthesis is likely.

Claims 13-14, 18, 24, 27-28, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bessler et al (5,855,601).

Bessler et al teaches an anti-reflux valve prosthesis to be placed in an esophagus, the prosthesis comprising:

an annular body including element 21;

a valve 20 depending from the annular fixation body, the valve configured to allow orthograde passage therethrough and inhibiting retrograde passage of gastric contents; and

a plurality of retractable spikes 64 spaced along a circumference of the annular body adjacent one end thereof.

The prosthesis of Bessler et al can be perorally implanted in the esophagus.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 and 9 are allowed.

Claims 16-17, 19-20, and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce E Snow whose telephone number is (703) 308-3255. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (703)308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BS' followed by a stylized flourish.

BRUCE SNOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER